

# California Department of Veterans Affairs

## **Veterans News**

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### NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



#### GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF LA PUENTE SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Pfc. Jason M. Morales of La Puente, CA:

"Private First Class Morales valiantly served our nation with selflessness and patriotism. Jason will be remembered for his brave sacrifice in the name of freedom. Maria and I offer our sincere condolences to Jason's family, friends and fellow soldiers as they mourn his passing."

Morales, 20, died April 18 in Baghdad, Iraq, as a result of injuries sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS.

In honor of Pfc. Morales, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



#### GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF FRESNO SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Michael M. Rojas of Fresno, CA:

"Corporal Rojas dedicated himself to our nation and our fight to bring liberty to the oppressed. Michael's courage in the presence of ultimate danger is an inspiration to all Californians. Maria and I extend our sympathies to Michael's family, friends and loved ones."

Rojas, 21, died April 18 in Taji, Iraq, as a result of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery

Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, WA.

In honor of Cpl. Rojas, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



#### GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF SUN VALLEY SOLDIER

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Sgt. Felix G. Gonzalez-Iraheta of Sun Valley, CA:

"Our nation's brave soldiers courageously devote themselves to defending our way of life. Felix will be remembered for his selfless patriotism in the face of ultimate danger. Maria and I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and fellow soldiers."

Gonzalez-Iraheta, 25, died May 3 in Baghdad, Iraq as a result of injuries sustained when his unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

In honor of Sqt. Gonzalez-Iraheta, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.



#### GOV. SCHWARZENEGGER ISSUES STATEMENT ON DEATH OF MANTECA MARINE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today released the following statement regarding the death of Cpl. Charles O. Palmer II of Manteca, CA:

"Corporal Palmer served our country with tremendous strength and profound bravery. Charles will be remembered for his steadfast determination to protect the freedoms we hold most sacred. Maria and I offer our prayers for Charles' family, friends and loved ones as they mourn their loss."

Palmer, 36, died May 5 as a result of injuries sustained while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 8th Communication Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, II MEF, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In honor of Cpl. Palmer, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Note to editors: This News for Veterans and previous CDVA news for veterans, news releases, and advisories are available on our website at <a href="https://www.cdva.ca.gov">www.cdva.ca.gov</a> and via e-mail from <a href="mailto:jaime.arteaqa@cdva.ca.gov">jaime.arteaqa@cdva.ca.gov</a>.